

9. Funding

9.1 Committed sources of funding, and the process for identifying and securing short- and long term funding

Funding for the IM Project initially came from FEMA and Homeland Security Grant Programs. Additional funding is now coming from FEMA fire grants, state and other Federal agencies. The Montana Legislature has been actively involved in the funding of the Northern Tier Interoperability Consortium (CDP 2). Development of this system is a partnership of local, tribal, state, and Federal resources. Sites owned by public agencies and private individuals are part of this process.

Currently, the State of Montana through the Department of Administration, Information Technology Services Division, Public Safety Services Bureau, has in the Governor's budget for the 2007-2009 Biennium an \$8.5 million appropriation for the IM Project of which \$3.5 million of this appropriation is for a second Master Control Site to be located in Eastern Montana, the precise location will be determined. The other \$5 million is a broad scope of project needs that will be distributed under the authority of the IMPD. The 2005 legislature approved \$3.5 million for the Northern Tier Project. Approximately \$40 million in Homeland Security and FEMA grants have been used for interoperable communications in Montana since 2001.

The State of Montana, on behalf of the IM Project, has signed agreements with the Department of Interior for site and resource sharing. Similar agreements are being developed by the IM Project with the U.S. Air Force which is contributing approximately \$1.9 million toward the IM Project. In addition, the Montana National Guard is contributing about \$2 million towards development of this microwave network.

Future funding is expected to be from a combination of local and state funds from the Office of Domestic Preparedness State Homeland Security Grant Program, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program.

Potential funding sources may include:

- Federal appropriations
- Federal grants, including Dept. of Justice and Dept. of Transportation
- State of Montana appropriations, special revenue accounts, and/or user fees

9.2 Plan for the development of a comprehensive funding strategy. Identify ongoing funding sources, anticipated costs, and resources needed for project management and leveraging active projects.

The Interoperability Montana Governance Committee's (IMGC) Finance Subcommittee is developing a plan for administering the new interoperable system. The committee is researching what is currently being spent by local governments on public safety radio communications. This will help determine what direction the committee should take in making recommendations for the new system.



A part of the planning process is to inventory current assets. Much of the collection work has been completed. The information is in the process of being entered into the new CASM system offered by Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This computer assisted system will help maintain a current list of communications assets and serve as a planning tool to determine future needs.

The Montana State University Local Government Center working with the Finance Subcommittee of the Interoperability Montana Governance Committee (IMGC), will research current revenue sources and funding levels of local government emergency communications systems for IMGC to utilize as baseline data as part of the statewide planning process.

The IMGC Funding Initiative will establish strategies to acquire funding streams from partnerships and other funding sources to provide the financial stability needed for all current and future interoperability improvement efforts.

The objectives of this initiative are to:

- Research the existing inventory of current revenue sources and funding levels of emergency radio communications by local government jurisdictions
- Exam of local jurisdictions' budget expenses incurred by their emergency service providers' departments and other public service agencies within local jurisdictions for their communication systems.
- Identify current funding mechanisms and sources of revenues for communication systems within local jurisdictions' budgets
- Collect and prepare a report on current and/or future communication acquisition plans and anticipated expenses.
- Collect data to develop a Communication Asset Survey Mapping (CASM) tool to be utilized by the Interoperability Montana Project to identify and assess emergency communication needs for the State of Montana

The budget analysis initiative will result in the following benefits for Montana public safety practitioners:

- A shared understanding of all available funding resources
- Shared responsibility for funding from the federal, state, and local levels across jurisdictions to support interoperability through partnerships and collaboration
- Increased awareness for developing sound acquisition strategies
- Coordination and collaboration across disciplines and jurisdictions through resource sharing and funding partnerships

The project will assist in identifying committed sources of funding or process for determining current local government levels of contributions to emergency communications by county departments.

This research will assist in developing plans for securing both short- and long-term funding as well as plans for the development of a comprehensive funding strategy. This research will provide a basis for identifying ongoing funding sources, anticipated costs, and resources needed for both project management and leveraging active projects across the state of Montana.



Table 2: On-going Funding Goals, Potential Revenue Streams, Needs and Priorities

Funding Goals	Types of Revenue	Funding Needs	Priorities
Identify Constant and Secure funding streams	Revenue sharing from other established sources, i.e., license fees, license plate fees, gas tax,	Administration (Staffing, Operations and Maintenance Committee Support) investigate other state department support	Establish constant revenue/funding for IM Project
Meet programs needs	Consortia/Regional funding districts	System Build Out	Minimize local system user fees
Allow for and anticipate future technological advances	Grants, public/private partnerships, State & Federal Partners	Maintenance, repairs and replacement of system and network	Define approximate costs to local governments
	Legislative Funding	Training & Exercises	
	Fines & Forfeitures	Capital Improvements	

Montana is still in the process of defining this comprehensive revenue streams.. A number of actual or potential funding sources are known today to exist in the State of Montana as listed below:

- BNSF Railway
- Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
- Department of Homeland Security (GNT/HS GP, CBP, OEC)
- Department of Interior (BLM, Park Service, BIA)
- Department of Justice (FBI)
- Federal Fire Grants
- Local jurisdictions, including counties and tribes
- Montana Army National Guard
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Public Safety Interoperability Communication Grant
- State of Montana, including monies allocated to state agencies, in addition to money directly legislated for interoperable communications
- U.S Air Force
- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)

Not all of these entities can or will contribute money. Some will contribute facilities, access, expertise, spectrum or other non-monetary items of value. These items of value, while not “funding” in the technical sense, have helped and will continue to help build out Montana’s interoperable communications system.

